

Town of Scituate Update July 27, 2020

COVID19 cases last week: one new case at Life Care Center. The town numbers continue to be low; thank you for wearing masks and adhering to safety protocols. Statewide the positive rate rose about 2%, slightly higher than last week. Vigilance to the safety recommendations are critical.

The Council on Aging will be open today and tomorrow from 10am-6pm as a cooling center. There is a heat advisory in place, so please be mindful. If you come to COA, masks are required, as is social distancing.

Phase 2 Water ban is still in effect and critical during this heat wave. No irrigation, car washing, or pool filling allowed. Handheld watering is allowed for gardens before 9am and after 5pm. The reservoir is currently at 61% capacity. Conservation is essential.

The Library is open for curbside pick-up of materials. It is anticipated that next week limited inside browsing will be allowed. This is intended for quick in-and-out collection of materials. Study rooms and seating will be closed, masks required, and limited capacity in the building enforced. Watch for detailed announcements later in the week.

Berm reconstruction along Musquashicut Pond begins this week. This project, funded 75% by FEMA, is necessary to restore the berm to original design and prevent flooding and property damage in the area.

Culvert replacement on Bailey's Causeway and Gilson Road begins today. While the timing is unfortunate, this work is necessary to reduce flooding. Planning has been in the works for years and was delayed from spring because of gas company issues. The main parking area for Minot Beach is open and can be accessed from Glades Road. Glades Road will return to two-way. Bailey's Causeway will be closed for the next 3-4 weeks. (If you're doing the Scituate 500, you won't be able to complete the Minot loop for a while.)

The Planning Board is seeking alternates. If you're interested, please contact Karen Joseph, Town Planner for more information.

Tonight the School Committee will meet via zoom at 6pm. The preliminary school opening plan, due this Friday to DESE, will be presented for public comment. The final plan is to be approved by DESE by 8/10.

Superintendent Burkhead thanked the 60-member Safe and Strong Committee that has been working on the draft reopening plan for the schools, along with the Task Force. Participation in last week's stakeholder forums was high and input from these groups is incorporated in the draft plans.

Town Administrator Boudreau commented that the decisions about reopening are some of the most critical choices the town has been faced with in years. He thanked the Superintendent for his leadership on his first three weeks at the helm of Scituate schools.

The next town update will be Monday, August 3rd.